

T O K E N

F O R

C H I L D R E N .



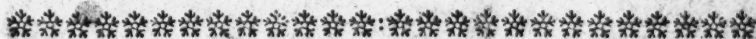
Extracted from a late AUTHOR,

By JOHN WESLEY, M. A.

FELLOW of Lincoln-College, OXFORD.



*Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid
them not; for of such is the Kingdom of GOD.
Luke x. 14.*



B R I S T O L :

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A
T O K E N
F O R
C H I L D R E N.



E X A M P L E i.

MRS. *Sarah Howley*, when she was between eight and nine Years old, was carried by her Friends to hear a Sermon, where the Minister preached upon *Matthew xi. 13. My Yoke is easy, and my Burden is light*: In the applying of which Scripture, the Child was mightily awakened, and made deeply sensible of the Condition of her Soul, and her Need of CHRIST; she wept bitterly to think what a Case she was in; and went home, got by herself into a Chamber, and upon her Knees she wept and cried to the LORD, as well as she could, which might easily be perceived by her Eyes and Countenance.

2. She was not contented at this, but she got her little Brother and Sister into a Chamber with her, and told them their Condition by Nature, and wept over them, and prayed with them.

3. After this she heard another Sermon upon *Prov. xxix, 1. He that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his Heart shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without Remedy*: At which she was more affected than before, and was so exceeding solicitous about her Soul, that she spent a great Part of the Night in Weeping and Praying, and could scarce take any Rest Day or Night for some Time together; desiring with all her Soul to escape from everlasting Flames, and to get an Interest in the LORD JESUS; O what should she do for CHRIST; What should she do to be saved!

4. She gave herself much to attending upon the Word preached, and still continued very tender under it, greatly relishing what she heard.

5. She was very much in secret Prayer, and was usually very importunate, full of Tears.

6. She could scarce speak of Sin, or be spoke to, but her Heart was ready to melt.

7. She spent much Time in reading the Scripture.

8. She was exceeding dutiful to her Parents, very loath to grieve them in the least; and if she had at any Time (which was very rare) offended them, she would weep bitterly.

9. She abhorred Lying, and allowed herself in no known Sin.

10. When she was at School, she was eminent for her Diligence, Teachableness, Meekness and Modesty, speaking little, but when she did speak, it was usually spiritual.

11. She continued in this Course of religious Duties of some Years together.

12. When she was about fourteen Years old, she broke a Vein in her Lungs (as is supposed) and oft did spit Blood, yet did a little recover again.

13. At the beginning of *January* last, she was taken very bad again, in which Sickness she was in great Distress of Soul. When she was first taken, she said, "O Mother, pray, pray for me, for *Satan* is so busy that I cannot pray for myself; I see I am undone without CHRIST, and a Pardon! O I am undone unto all Eternity!"

14. Her Mother, knowing how serious she had been formerly, did a little wonder that she should be in such Agonies; and asked her, what Sin it was that was so burthenfome to her Spirit? "O Mother, said she, it is not any particular Sin that sticks so close to my Conscience, as the Sin of my Nature; without the Blood of CHRIST, that will damn me."

15. Her Mother asked her, what she would pray for, for her; she answered, "That I may have a saving Knowledge of Sin and CHRIST; and that I may have an Assurance of God's Love to my Soul." Her Mother ask'd her, Why she spoke so little to the Minister that came to her? She answered, "It was her Duty with Patience and Silence to learn of him."

16. One time, when she fell into a Fit, she cry'd out, "O I am going, I am going: But what shall I do to be saved? LORD JESUS, I will lie at thy Feet; and if I perish, it shall be at the Fountain of thy Mercy."

17. She was much afraid of Presumption and dreaded a Mistake in the Matters of her Soul, and would be often putting up Ejaculations to God, to deliver her from deceiving herself. To instance in one: "Great and mighty God, give me Faith, and true Faith, LORD, that I may not be a foolish Virgin, having a Lamp and no Oil."

18. Her Father bid her be of good Cheer, because she was going to a better Father: At which she fell into a great Agony, and said, "But how do I know that? I am a poor Sinner that wants Assurance: O, for Assurance! This was her great, earnest and constant Request, to all that came to her, to beg Assurance for her; and, she would look with so much Begeriness upon them, as if she desired nothing in the World so much as that they would pity her, and help her with their Prayers. Never was poor Creature more earnest for any thing, than she was for Assurance, and the Light of God's Countenance: O the piteous Moan that she would make! O the Agonies that her Soul was in!"

19. The LORD's Day before that in which she died, a Kinsman of hers came to see her, and asking of her,

Whether she knew him? She answered, " Yea, I know you, and I desire you would learn to know CHRIST: You are young, but you know not how soon you may die; and O to die without CHRIST, is a fearful Thing: O redeem Time! O Time, Time, precious Time!" Being requested by him not to spend herself; she said, She would fain do all the Good she could while she lived: Upon which Account, she desired that a Sermon might be preach'd at her Funeral, concerning the Preciousness of Time.

20. Some Ministers that came to her, did with Earnestness beg, that the LORD would please to give her some Token for good, that she might go off triumphing; and Bills of the same Nature were sent to several Churches.

21. After she had long waited for an Answer of their Prayers, she said, *Well, I will venture my Soul upon CHRIST.*

22. For the Pains and Agonies that she was in, her Patience was next to a Wonder; " LORD, LORD, give me Patience, said she, that I may not dishonour Thee."

23. Upon *Thursday*, after long Waiting, great Fears, and many Prayers, when all her Friends thought she had been past speaking, to the Astonishment of her Friends, she broke forth thus, with a very audible Voice, and cheerful Countenance: " LORD, Thou hast promised, that whosoever comes unto Thee, Thou wilt in no wise cast out: LORD, I come unto Thee, and surely Thou wilt in no wise cast me out. O so sweet! O so glorious is JESUS! I have Thee, sweet and glorious JESUS; He is sweet, He is sweet! O the admirable Love of GOD in sending CHRIST; Free Grace to a poor lost Creature!

24. Her Soul then seem'd ravish'd with the Love of CHRIST. And while she was engaged in magnifying of GOD, her Father, Brethren, and Sisters, with others of the Family, were called, to whom she spake particularly, as her Strength would give leave. She gave her Bible as a Legacy to one of her Brothers, and desired him to use that well for her Sake; and added, to him and the rest, " O make use of Time to get CHRIST for your Souls; spend no Time in running up and down or in Playing: O get CHRIST for your Souls

while you are young! Remember now your Creator before you come to a Sick-bed; put not off this great Work till then, for then you will find it a hard Work indeed: I know, by Experience, the Devil will tell you it is Time enough; and ye are young, what need you be in such haste? You will have Time enough when you are old. But remember the Words of a dying Sister. If you knew how good CHRIST were! If you had but one Taste of his Sweetness, you would rather go to Him a thousand times than stay in this wicked World. I would not for ten thousand, and ten thousand Worlds, part with my Interest in CHRIST: O how happy am I, that I am going to everlasting Joys! I would not go back again for twenty thousand Worlds; and will you not strive to get an Interest in CHRIST?"

25. After this, looking upon one of her Father's Servants she said, "What shall I do, at the Great Day, when CHRIST shall say to me, *Come, thou blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for thee?* And shall say to the Wicked, *Go thou cursed, into the Lake that burns for ever?* What a Grief is it for me to think, that I shall see any of my Friends, that I knew upon Earth, turned into that Lake that burns for ever! O that Word, *For ever!* Remember that, *For ever!* I speak these Words to you, but they are nothing, except God speak to you too: O pray, that God would give you Grace!" And then she prayed, "O LORD, finish thy Work upon their Souls: It will be my Comfort to see you in Glory; but it will be your everlasting Happiness."

26. Upon *Friday*, after she had had such lively Discoveries of GOD's Love, she was exceeding desirous to die, and cried out, "Come, LORD JESUS, come quickly; conduct me to thy Tabernacle, I am a poor Creature without Thee: But, LORD JESUS, my Soul longs to be with Thee: O when shall it be! Why not now, dear JESUS? Come, LORD JESUS, come quickly: But why do I speak thus? Thy Time, dear LORD, is the best: O give me Patience!"

27. Upon *Saturday*, she spoke very little, (being very drowsy) yet now and then she dropt these Words,
"How

“ How long, sweet JESUS? Finish thy Work, sweet JESUS: Come away, LORD JESUS, come quickly.”

28. Upon the LORD's Day she scarce spoke any thing, but much desired that Bills of Thanksgiving might be sent to those who had formerly been praying for her, that they might help her to praise GOD for that full Assurance that He had given her of his Love; and seem'd to be swallowed up with the Thoughts of GOD's free Love to her Soul. She oft commended her Spirit into the LORD's Hands; and the last Words which she was heard to speak were these: LORD help, LORD JESUS help, dear LORD JESUS, blessed JESUS— And thus upon the LORD's Day, between Nine and Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, she slept sweetly in JESUS, and began an everlasting Sabbath, *Feb. 19, 1670.*



EXAMPLE ii.

1. **A** LITTLE Child, whose Mother had dedicated him to the LORD in her Womb: when he could not speak plain, would be crying after GOD, and was greatly desirous to be taught good Things.

2. He could not endure to be put to Bed without Prayer, but would put his Parents upon it, with much Devotion kneel down, and with great Patience and Delight continue till it was at an end, without the least Sign therein of being weary. And he seem'd never so well pleas'd, as when he was engaged.

3. He could not be satisfied with Family Prayer; but he would be oft upon his Knees, by himself, in one Corner or other.

4. He was much delighted in hearing the Word of GOD either read or preach'd.

5. He loved to go to School, that he might learn something of GOD, and would take great notice of what he had read, and come home and speak of it with much Affection. He would rejoice in his Book, and
say

say to his Mother, "O Mother; I had a sweet Lesson to Day; will you please to give me Leave to fetch my Book, that you may hear it?"

6. He quickly learned to read the Scripture, and would, with great Reverence, Tendernefs and Groans, read till Tears and Sobs were ready to hinder him.

7. When he was at secret Prayer, he would weep bitterly.

8. He was wont often to complain of the Wickedness of his Heart, and seemed to be more grieved for the Corruption of his Nature, than for actual Sin.

9. He was much troubled for the Wandring of his Thoughts in Prayer, and that he could not keep his Heart always fixed upon God, and his Affections constantly raised.

10. He kept a Watch over his Heart, and observed the Workings of his Soul, and would complain, that they were so vain and foolish, and so little busied about spiritual Things.

11. He was exceeding importunate with God in Prayer; and would plead with God at a strange rate; and he would beg and expostulate, and weep so, that sometimes it could not be kept from the Ears of Neighbours; so that one of the next House was forced to cry out, "The Prayers and Tears of that Child in the next House will sink me to Hell," because by it he did condemn his Neglect of Prayer, and his slight Performance of it.

12. He abhorred Lying with his Soul.

13. When he had committed any Sin, he was easily convinced of it, and would get in some Corner or secret Place, and with Tears beg Pardon of God, and Strength against it.

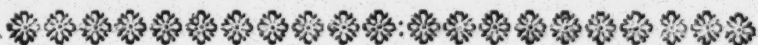
14. When other Children were playing, he would be praying.

15. A Friend of his asked him, Whether he were willing to die? when he was first taken sick. He answered, No; because he was afraid of his State as to another World. Why, Child, said the other, thou didst pray for a new Heart, for an humble, and a sincere Heart, and I have heard thee; didst thou not pray with thy Heart? I hope I did, said he.

No

16. Not long after, the same Person asked him again, Whether he were willing to die? He answered, "Now I am willing, for I shall go to CHRIST."

17. He still grew weaker and weaker, but behaved with a great deal of Sweetness and Patience, waiting for his Change. At last calling upon the Name of the LORD, and saying, "LORD JESUS, LORD JESUS!" he sweetly slept, dying, when he was between five and six Years old.



EXAMPLE iii.

1. **M**ARY A. when she was between four and five Years old, was greatly affected in hearing the Word of GOD, and became very solicitous about her Soul, weeping bitterly, to think what would become of her in another World, asking strange Questions concerning GOD and CHRIST, and her own Soul. So that before she was full five Years old, she minded the one Thing needful, and chose the better Part.

2. She was wont to be much in secret Prayer, and many Times came off from her Knees with Tears.

3. She wou'd chuse such Times and Places for secret Prayer, as might render her less observed by others; and endeavour'd to conceal what she was doing, when she was engaged therein.

4. Her Mother being full of Sorrow after the Death of her Husband, this Child came to her and ask'd her why she wept so exceedingly, Her Mother answered, she had Cause enough to weep, because her Father was dead: "No, dear Mother, said the Child, you have no Cause to weep so much, for God is a good God still."

5. She was a dear Lover of faithful Ministers. One Time after she had been hearing of Mr. Whitaker, She said, "I love that Man dearly, for the sweet Words that he speaks concerning CHRIST."

6. Her Book was her Delight; and many Times she was so strangely affected in reading of the Scriptures,

tures, that she burst out into Tears, and would hardly be pacified; so greatly was she taken with CHRIST's Sufferings, the Zeal of GOD's Servants, and the Danger of a natural State.

7. She complain'd often of the Corruption of her Nature, of the Hardness of her Heart, that she could repent no more, and be no more humble and grieved for her Sins against a good GOD; and when she thus complain'd it was with abundance of Tears.

8. She was very conscientious in keeping the Sabbath, spending the whole Time either in Reading or Praying, or learning her Catechism, or teaching her Brethren or Sisters. One Time when she was left at home upon the LORD's Day, she got some other little Children together, with her Brothers and Sisters, and told them, "That was the LORD's Day, and they ought to remember that Day to keep it holy." She then told them, it was to be spent in religious Exercises all the Day, except so much as was taken up in the Works of Necessity and Mercy: Then she prayed with them, and among other Things begged, that the LORD would give Grace and Wisdom to them little Children, that they might know how to serve Him.

9. At another Time a near Relation of hers, being in some Streights, made some Complaint, to whom she said, "I have heard Mr. Carter say, A Man may go to Heaven without a Penny in his Purse, but not without Grace in his Heart."

10. She had an extraordinary Love to the People of GOD; and when she saw any that she thought feared the LORD, her Heart would even leap for Joy.

11. When she was between eleven and twelve Years old, she sickned of the Plague, in which she behaved with admirable Patience and Sweetness, and did what she could with Scripture Arguments to support and encourage her Relations to part with her that was going to Glory, and to prepare themselves to meet her in a blessed Eternity.

12. She was not many Days sick, before she was marked; which she first saw herself, and was greatly rejoiced to think that she was marked out for the LORD, and was now going apace to CHRIST. She called to her

her Friends, and said, "I am marked, but be not troubled, for I know I am marked for one of the LORD's own." One asked her, how she knew that? She answered, "The LORD hath told me, that I am one of his dear Children." And this she spoke with a holy Confidence in the LORD's Love, and was not in the least daunted at her Death; but seemed greatly delighted in the Apprehension of her Nearness to her Father's House. And it was not long before she was filled with Joy unspeakable in believing.

13. When she lay a dying, her Mother came to her, and told her, she was sorry that she had reprov'd and corrected so good a Child so oft. "O Mother, said she, speak not thus; I bless God now I am dying, for your Reproofs and Corrections too; for, it may be, I might have gone to Hell, if it had not been for your Reproofs and Corrections."

14. Some of her Neighbours coming to visit her, asked her, if she would leave them? She answered, "If you serve the LORD, you shall come after me to Glory."

15. A little before she died, she had a great Conflict with *Satan*, and cried out, "I am none of his." Her Mother seeing her in Trouble, asked her what was the Matter? she answered, "*Satan* did trouble me, but now, I thank God, all is well. I know, I am none of his, but CHRIST'S."

16. After this, she had a great Sense of God's Love, and a glorious Sight, as if she had seen the very Heavens open, and the Angels come to receive her; by which her Heart was filled with Joy, and her Tongue with Praise.

17. Being desired by the Standers-by to give them a particular Account of what she saw, she answered, "You shall know hereafter:" And so in an Extasy of Joy and holy Triumph, she went to God, when she was about twelve Years old.





E X A M P L E iv.

1. **C**HARLES BRIDGMAN had no sooner learned to speak, but he betook himself to Prayer.

2. He was prone to learn the Things of God.

3. He would be often teaching them their Duty that waited upon him.

4. He learned by Heart many good Things before he was fit to go to School: And when he was at School, so religious were his Words, his Actions so upright, his Devotions so hearty, his Fear of God so great, that many were ready to say, as they did of *John*, *What Manner of Child shall this be?*

5. He would be much in reading the holy Scriptures.

6. He was desirous of more spiritual Knowledge, and would be oft asking very serious Questions.

7. He would not stir out of Doors before he had poured out his Soul to the LORD.

8. When he eat any Thing, he would be sure to lift up his Heart unto the LORD for a Blessing upon it; and when he had moderately refreshed himself by eating, he would not forget to acknowledge God's Goodness in feeding of him.

9. He would not lie down in his Bed 'till he had been upon his Knees; and when sometimes he had forgotten his Duty, he would quickly get out of his Bed, and kneeling down upon his bare Knees, ask God Forgiveness for that Sin.

10. He would rebuke his Brethren if they were at any Time hasty at their Meals, or eat without asking a Blessing. His Check was usually this, *Dare you do thus?* God be merciful to us; *this Bit of Bread might choke us.*

11. His Sentences were wise and weighty, and might well become some ancient Christian.

12. His Sickness was lingering: In which one told him of Possessions that must fall to his Portion: And, what are they? said he; *I had rather have the Kingdom of Heaven, than a thousand such Inheritances.*

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13. When he was sick, he seemed much taken up with Heaven, and asked very serious Questions about the Nature of his Soul.

14. After he was pretty well satisfied about that, he enquired how his Soul might be saved? The Answer being made, "by the applying of CHRIST's Merits by Faith;" he was pleased with the Answer, and was ready to give any one that should desire it, an Account of his Hope.

15. Being asked, Whether he had rather live or die? He answered, *I desire to die, that I may go to my Saviour.*

16. His Pains increasing, one asked him, Whether he would rather still endure those Pains, or forsake CHRIST? "Alas, said he, I know not what to say, being but a Child; these Pains may stagger a strong Man; but I will endure them the best that I can." Upon this he called to Mind that Martyr *Thomas Bilney*; who being in Prison, the Night before his burning, put his Finger into the Candle, to know how he could endure the Fire. "O! said the Child, had I lived then, I would have run through the Fire to have gone to CHRIST."

17. Three Days before his Death he told them not only that he must die, but the Day: No sooner was that Day come, but he fell into a Trance, his Eyes were fixed, his Face chearful, his Hands and Arms clasped in a Bow, as if he would have received some blessed Angel that were at Hand to receive his Soul. When he came to himself, he told them how he saw the sweetest Body that ever Eyes beheld, who bid him, be of good Cheer, for he must presently go with Him.

18. The last Words he spake, were these: 'Pray, pray, pray, nay, yet pray; and the more Prayers, the better, all prospers: GOD is the best Physician; into thy Hands I commend my Spirit. O LORD JESUS, receive my Soul: Now close mine Eyes: Forgive me Father, Mother, Brothers, Sister, all the World. Now I am well, my Pain is almost gone, my Joy is at Hand. LORD have Mercy on me. O LORD, receive my Soul unto Thee.' And thus he yielded his Spirit up unto the LORD, when he was about twelve Years old.

EX-



E X A M P L E v.

1. **A** VERY poor Child of the Parish of *Newington-Butts*, came to the Door of a Friend of mine, in a very lamentable Case, it pleased God to raise in the Heart of my Friend, a great Pity and Tenderness towards him: so that he took him out of the Streets, who had nothing at all to commend him to any one's Charity, but his Misery. My Friend eying the Glory of God, discharged the Parish of the Child, and took Him as his own, yet there seemed to be little hopes of doing good upon him, for he was a very Monster of Wickedness, and a thousand times more miserable and vile by his Sin, than by his Poverty. He was running to Hell as soon as he could go, and was old in Vice when he was young in Years; one shall scarce hear of one so like the Devil in his Infancy, as this poor Child was. What Sin was there (that his Age was capable of) that he did not commit? What by the Corruption of his Nature, and the abominable Example of little Beggar-boys, he was arrived to a strange Pitch of Impiety. He would call Names, take God's Name in vain, Curse and Swear, and do almost all Kind of Mischief; and, as to any thing of God, was worse than an Heathen.

2. No sooner had this good Man taken this Creature into his House, but he pray'd for him, and labour'd with all his Might to convince him of his miserable Condition by Nature, and to teach him something of God, the worth of his own Soul, and that Eternity of Glory or Misery that he was born to. And blessed be God, it was not long before the LORD was pleased to let him understand, that it was Himself which put it into his Heart to take in this Child. The LORD soon struck in with his Instructions, so that an amazing Change was seen. In a few Weeks Space he was convinced of the Evil of his Ways; no more calling of Names, Swearing or Cursing; no more taking of the LORD's Name

in vain. His Company, his Talk, his Employment were changed, and he was like another Creature.

3. And this Change was not only an external one, but he would get by himself, and weep and mourn bitterly for his wicked Life.

4. He was still more and more broken under a Sense of his undone State by Nature; oft in Tears, and bemoaning his lost and miserable Condition. When his Master spake of the Things of God, he listened earnestly, and took in with much Greediness and Affection what he was taught. Seldom was there any Discourse about Religion in his Hearing, but he heard it as if it were for his Life.

5. Thus he continued seeking after the Knowledge of God 'till the Sickness came into the House, with which he was smitten. At his first sickening, the poor Child was greatly amazed and afraid; and thought his Pains were great and the Distemper very tedious, yet the Sense of his Sin, and the Thought of the Condition, his Soul was still in, made his Trouble ten times greater. He was in grievous Agonies of Spirit, and his former Sins stared him in his Face, and made him tremble. The Poison of God's Arrows did even drink up his Spirits; the Sense of Sin and Wrath was so great, that he could not tell what to do. The Weight of God's Displeasure, and the Thoughts of lying under it to all Eternity, did even break him to Pieces, and he cried out bitterly, what should he do? he was a miserable Sinner, and he feared that he should go to Hell: His Sins had been so great and so many, that there was no Hope for him. He was not by far so much concerned for his Life, as for his Soul, what would become of that for ever. Now the Plague upon his body seemed nothing to that which was in his Soul.

6. He not only cried out of himself, for his Swearing and Lying, and other outwardly notorious Sins; but was in great Horror for the Sin of his Nature, for the Vileness of his Heart, and Original Corruption. For this he was in so great Anguish, that the Trouble of his Spirit made him forget the Pain of his Body.

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7. He did very particularly confess and bewail his Sins; and some Sins so secret, that none in the World could charge him with.

8. He would ask others, whether they thought there were any Hopes for him, and would beg of them to deal plainly with him, for he was greatly afraid of being deceived.

9. Being informed how willing and ready the LORD CHRIST was to accept of poor Sinners, and being counselled to venture himself upon CHRIST, for Mercy and Salvation, he said he would fain cast himself upon CHRIST, but he could not but wonder how CHRIST should die for such a vile Wretch as he was and he found it one of the hardest Things in the World to believe.

10. But at last it pleased the LORD to give him some Hope, that there might be Mercy for him, the Chief of Sinners; and he was inabled to lay hold upon that, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you Rest.* Nor was it long before he was full of Praise, and admiring of God; so that, (to speak in the Words of one that was an Eye and Ear-witness) the House at that Day, for all the Sickness in it, was a little lower Heaven, so full of Joy and Praise.

11. He now grew exceedingly in Knowledge, Experience, Patience, Humility, and Self-aborrancy. He prayed before, but now the LORD poured out upon him the Spirit of Prayer in an extraordinary Manner: So that now he prayed more frequently, more earnestly, more spiritually than ever. O how eagerly would he beg to be washed in the Blood of JESUS! And that the King of Kings, and LORD of Lords, that was over Heaven and Earth, would pardon and forgive him all his Sins, and receive his Soul into his Kingdom. And what he spoke, was with so much Life and Fervour of Spirit, that it fill'd the Hearers with Astonishment and Joy.

12. He had no small Sense of the Use and Excellency of CHRIST, and such Longings and Breathings of his Soul after Him, that when Mention had been made of CHRIST, he hath been ready to leap out of his Bed for Joy.

13. The *Wednesday* before he died, he lay as it were in a Trance for about half an Hour, in which Time he thought he saw a Vision of Angels: When he was out of his Trance, he asked his Nurse, Why she did not let him go? Go, whither, Child? said she. Why along with those brave Gentlemen, said he: But they told me they would come and fetch me away upon *Friday*. And he doubled his Words many Times, Upon *Friday* next, those brave Gentlemen will come for me.

14. He was very thankful to his Master, and very sensible of his great Kindness, in taking him out of the Streets when he was a Begging: And he admired the Goodness of God, which put it into the Mind of a Stranger, to look upon such a pitiful Creature as he was. "O my dear Master (said he) I hope to see you in Heaven, for I am sure you will go thither. O blessed, blessed be God, that made you to take Pity upon me: for I might have died, and have gone to the Devil, and been damn'd for ever, if it had not been for you."

15. The *Thursday* before he died, he asked a Friend of mine, what he thought of his Condition, and whither his Soul was going? For he said he could not still but fear, lest he should deceive himself with false Hopes. At which my Friend spoke to him thus: If thou art but willing and accept of Him, thou mayest have CHRIST and all that thou dost want with Him. Thou sayest, thou fearest that CHRIST will not accept of thee; I fear thou art not heartily willing to accept of Him. The Child answer'd, Indeed I am. "Why then, if thou art unfeignedly willing to have CHRIST, I tell thee, He is a thousand times more willing to have thee, and wash thee, and save thee. And now, at this Time, CHRIST offers Himself freely to thee again; therefore receive Him humbly by Faith into thy Heart, and bid Him welcome, for He deserveth it." Upon which Words the LORD discovered his Love to the Child; and he gave a kind of a Leap in his Bed, and snapt his Fingers and Thumb together with abundance of Joy. And from that Time forward, in full Joy and Assurance of God's Love, he continu'd earnestly praising God, desiring to die and be with CHRIST. And on *Friday* Morn-

Morning he sweetly went to Rest, using that Expression, *Into thy Hands, LORD, I commit my Spirit*: Being not much above nine Years old.



E X A M P L E vi.

1. **J**OHNSUDLOW was born of religious Parents in the County of *Middlesex*, whose great Care was to instill spiritual Principles into him as soon as he was capable of understanding them; whose Endeavours the LORD was pleased to crown with the desired Success.

2. When he was scarce able to speak plain, he seemed to have a very great Awe and Reverence of God upon his Spirit, and a strange Sense of Things of another World.

3. The first Thing that much affected him, and made him endeavour to escape from the Wrath to come, and to enquire what he should do to be saved, was the Death of a little Brother. When he saw him without Breath, and not able to speak or stir; and when carried out of Doors, and put into the Ground, he was greatly concerned, and asked, "Whither he should die too?" being answered, Yes, it made such a deep Impression upon him, that from that time forward he was exceeding serious; and this was when he was about four Years old.

4. He was now desirous to know what he might do that he might live in another World, and what avoid, that he might not die for ever. And being instructed by his Parents, he soon labour'd to avoid whatsoever might displease God. Now the Apprehensions of God, and Death and Eternity, laid such a Restraint upon him, that he would not for a World have told a Lye.

5. He was much taken with the Reading of the Book of Martyrs, and would willingly leave his Dinner to go to his Book.

6. He went to his Father and Mother with great Tenderness and Compassion, and begg'd of them to take more Care of the Souls of his Brethren and Sisters, and
to

take Heed lest they should go on in a sinful Christless State, and go to Hell and be ruined for ever.

7. The Providences of God were not passed by without considerable Observations by him.

8. In the Time of the Plague, he was exceedingly concern'd about his everlasting State; and was very much by himself upon his Knees. This Prayer was found written in Short-hand after his Death.

O LORD GOD and merciful Father, take Pity upon me, a miserable Sinner; and strengthen me, O LORD, in thy Faith, and make me one of thy glorious Saints in Heaven. O LORD, keep me from this poisonous Infection; however, not my Will, but Thy Will be done. O LORD if Thou hast appointed me to die by it, fit me for Death, and give me a good Heart to bear up under my Afflictions. O LORD GOD, and merciful Father, take Pity on me, thy Child; teach me, O LORD thy Word; make me strong in Faith. O LORD I have sinned against Thee: LORD, pardon my Sins: I had been in Hell long ago, if it had not been for thy Mercy. But, O LORD, if Thou hast appointed me to die, fit me for Death, that I may die with Comfort: And, O LORD, I pray Thee, to help me to bear up under all Afflictions, for CHRIST his Sake. Amen.

9. He was not a little concerned for the whole Nation, and begged that God would pardon the Sins of this Land, and bring it nearer to Himself.

10. About the Beginning of November, 1665, this Child was smote with the Distemper, but he behaved with admirable Patience, under the Hand of God.

11. These are some of his last Expressions:—The LORD shall be my Physician, for He will cure both Soul and Body—Heaven is the best Hospital—*It is the LORD let Him do what seemeth good in his Eyes.* Again—It is the LORD that taketh away my Health; but I will say as *Job* did, *Blessed be the Name of the LORD.* If I should live longer, I should but sin against God. Looking upon his Father, he said, If the LORD would but lend me the least Finger of his Hand, to lead me through the dark Entry of Death, I will rejoice in Him.

When

12. When a Minister came to him, among other Things, he spake somewhat of Life. He said, 'This is a Wicked World; it is better to live in Heaven——'

13. An Hour and an Half before his Death, the same Minister came again to visit him, and asked him, *John*, art not thou afraid to die? He answer'd, No, if the LORD will but comfort me in that Hour. But, said the Minister, how canst thou expect Comfort, seeing we deserve none? He answered, No, if I had my Deserts, I had been in Hell long ago. But, reply'd the Minister, Which Way dost thou expect Comfort and Salvation, seeing thou art a Sinner? He answered, In CHRIST alone—— in Whom about an Hour and an Half after, he fell asleep.



E X A M P L E vii.

1. **T**ABITHA ALDER was the Daughter of a Minister in *Kent*, who lived near *Gravesend*. She was instructed in the holy Scriptures, by her Father and Mother, but there appeared nothing extraordinary in her, 'till she was between seven and eight Years old.

2. About which Time, when she was sick, one ask'd her, What she thought would become of her, if she should die? She answer'd, That she was greatly afraid, she should go to Hell.

3. Being asked, why she was afraid she should go to Hell? she answered, because she did not love GOD.

4. Again, being ask'd how she did know she did not love GOD? She replied, "What have I done for GOD ever since I was born? And besides this, I have been taught, that he that loves GOD, keeps His Commandments; but I have kept none of them all."

5. Being further demanded, If she would not fain love GOD? She answered, "Yes, with all her Heart, if she could, but she found it a hard Thing to love one she did not see."

6. She was advised to beg of GOD a Heart to love Him: She answered, She was afraid it was too late.

Upon

7. Upon this, seeing her in such a desponding Condition, a Friend of hers spent the next day in Fasting and Prayer for her.

8. After this, that Friend ask'd her, how she did now? She answer'd, with a great deal of Joy, That now she blessed the LORD, she loved the LORD JESUS dearly; she felt she did love Him: O said she, I love Him dearly.

9. Why, said her Friend, did you not say Yesterday, that you did not love the LORD, and that you could not? "Sure (said she) it was *Satan* hindred. But now I love him; O blessed be GOD for the LORD JESUS CHRIST."

10. After this, she had a Discovery of her approaching Dissolution, which was no small Comfort to her. "Anon (said she, with a holy Triumph) I shall be with JESUS, I am married to Him, He is my Husband, I am his Bride; I have given myself to Him, and He hath given Himself to me, and I shall live with Him for ever."

11. This Language made the Hearers stand astonished: She continued, in a kind of Extasy of Joy, admiring the Excellency of CHRIST, rejoicing in her Interest in Him, and longing to be with Him.

12. After a while, some of her Friends standing by her, observed a more than ordinary Earnestness and Fix'dness in her Countenance; they said one to another, Look how earnestly she looks, sure she seeth something.

13. One asked, what it was she fixed her Eyes upon so eagerly? I warrant (saith one) she seeth Death a coming.

14. No, said she, it is the Glory that I see, 'tis that I fix my Eye upon.

15. One ask'd her, What was the Glory like? She answer'd, "I can't speak what, but I am going to it; will you go with me? I am going to Glory; O that all you were to go with me to that Glory!" With which Words her Soul took Wing, and went to the Possession of that Glory. She died when she was between eight and nine Years old.

E X A M P L E viii.

1. **S**USANNA BICKS was born at *Leyden in Holland*, *Jan. 24, 1650.* of religious Parents, whose great Care was to instruct their Child, and to present her to the Ministers of the Place to be publicly instructed.

2. It pleased God to bless this to her Soul, so that she had soon a true Relish of what she was taught, and made an admirable Use of it in Time of Need.

3. She was a Child of great Dutifulness to her Parents, and of a very sweet, humble Nature; and not only the Truth, but the Power and Eminency of Religion did shine in her.

4. In the Month of *August, 1664*, when the Pestilence raged in *Holland*, as she felt herself very ill, she broke forth into these Words: *If thy Law were not my Delight, I shou'd perish in my Affliction.*

5. Her Father coming to her, said, "Be of good Comfort, my Child, for the LORD will be near to thee and us; he will not forsake us though he chasten us." "Yea, Father, said she, our heavenly Father doth chasten us for our Profit, that we may be Partakers of his Holiness; no Chastisement seemeth for the present to be joyous, but grievous, but afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable Fruits of Righteousness to them which are exercised thereby."

6. After this with her Eyes lift up to Heaven, she said, *Be merciful to me, O Father, be merciful to me, a Sinner, according to thy Word.*

7. She was a great Hater of Sin, and did with much Grief and Self-Abhorrency reflect upon it: Especially that which lay most upon her Heart, was the Corruption of her Nature. Oft would she cry out in the Words of the Psalmist, *Behold, I was shapen in Iniquity, and in Sin did my Mother conceive me.* She could never let herself low enough under a Sense of that Sin which she brought with her into the World.

That

8. That Scripture was much in her Mouth, *The Sacrifices of GOD are a contrite Heart; a broken and a contrite Spirit, O GOD, Thou wilt not despise.* "That Brokenness of Heart, said she, which is built up and flows from Faith, and that Faith which is built upon CHRIST, who is the proper and alone Sacrifice for Sin."

9. Then she discoursed of the Nature of Faith, and desired that the Eleventh of the *Hebrews* should be read unto her; at the reading of which, she cried out, "O what a stedfast Faith was that of *Abraham*, which made him willing to offer up his own and only Son! *Faith is indeed the Substance of Things hoped for, the Evidence of Things not seen.*"

10. Her Father and Mother, hearing her, burst out into Tears; upon which, she pleaded with them to be patient under the Hand of GOD. "O! said she, why do you weep over me, seeing, you have no Reason to question, but if the LORD take me, it shall be well with me to all Eternity. You ought to be well satisfied, seeing it is said, *GOD is in Heaven, and doth whatsoever pleaseth Him:* And do you not pray every Day that the Will of GOD may be done upon Earth as it is in Heaven? Now, Father, this is GOD's Will, that I should lie upon this sick Bed, and of this Disease; shall we not be content when our Prayers are answered? I will, as long as I live, pray, that GOD's Will may be done, and not mine."

11. "Doth not, said she, the Pestilence come from GOD? Why else doth the Scripture say, *Shall there be Evil in the City which I have not sent?* Does it come from the Air? and is not the LORD the Creator and Ruler of the Air? Or if they say, it comes from the Earth, hath He not the same Power and Influence upon that too? What talk they of a Ship that came from *Africa*? Have ye not read long ago, *I will bring a Sword upon you and avenge the Quarrel of my Covenant, and when you are assembled in the Cities, then will I bring the Pestilence in the midst of you.*

12. After this having taken a little Rest, she said, "whether in Death or Life a Believer is CHRIST's, Who hath redeemed us by his own precious Blood from the

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the Power of the Devil; Then whether I live or die, I am the LORD's. O why do you afflict yourselves thus! But what shall I say? With weeping I came into the World, and with Weeping I must go out again. O my dear Parents, better is the Day of my Death than the Day of my Birth. "

13. She then desired her Father to pray with her, and to request of the LORD, that she might have a quiet Passage into another World.

14. Her Father perceiving her to grow very weak, said, "I percieve, Child, thou art very weak." "It is true, Sir, said she, I feel my Weakness increased, and I see your Sorrow increasing too, which is a Piece of my Affliction. Be content, I pray you, it is the LORD which doth it, and let you and I say with *David*, *Let us fall into the LORD's Hands, for his Mercies are great.*"

15. She laid a great Charge upon her Parents, not to grieve for her after her Death, urging that of *David*; while the Child was sick, he fasted and wept; but when it died, he washed his Face, and sat up and eat, and said, *Can I bring him back from Death? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.*

16. Being very feeble, she said, "O that I might quietly sleep in the Bosom of JESUS! and that 'till then he would strengthen me! O that he would take me into his Arms, as He did those little Ones, where He said, *Suffer little Children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven: and He took them into his Arms, and laid his Hands on them, and blessed them.* I lie here as a Child; O LORD I am thy Child, receive me into thy gracious Arms. O LORD, Grace! Grace! and not Justice! for if thou should enter into Judgment with me, I cannot stand, yea, none living should be just in thy Sight.

18. Then she said, "O what is the Life of Man! *The Days of Man upon the Earth are as the Grass, and as the Flowers of the Field, so he flourisheth: the Wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and his Place knows him no more.*

19. She added, My Life shall not continue long. I feel much Weakness; O LORD look upon me graciously, have Pity upon my weak, distressed Heart. I am oppressed, undertake for me, that I may stand fast and overcome.

20. She was very frequent in spiritual Ejaculations, and it was no small Comfort to her, that the LORD CHRIST did pray for her, and promise to send his Spirit to comfort her. "It is said, said she, *I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter.* O let not him leave me! O LORD, continue with me 'till my Battle and Work be finished."

21. Soon after she said, "None but CHRIST! Without Thee I can do nothing! CHRIST is the true Vine! O let me be a Branch of that Vine! What poor Worms are we! O dear Father, how lame and halting do we go in the Ways of GOD and Salvation? We know but in Part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is imperfect shall be done away. O that I had attained to that now: But, what are we ourselves? Not only Weakness and Nothingness, but Wickedness. For all the Thoughts and Imaginations of Man's Heart are only Evil, and that continually: We are, by Nature Children of Wrath, and are conceived in Sin and born in Unrighteousness. O! this wretched and vile Thing, Sin! but Thanks to GOD who hath redeemed me from it. O LORD, take me to Thyself. Behold, dear Mother, he hath prepared a Place for me."

22. "Yea, my dear Child, said her Mother, He shall strengthen you with his holy Spirit, until He hath fitted and prepared you fully for that Place which He hath prepared for you."

23. Yea, Mother, replied she, it is said in the 84th Psalm, *How lovely are thy Tabernacles, O LORD of Hosts, my Soul doth thirst, & longeth for the Courts of the LORD; one Day in thy Courts is better than a Thousand; yea, I had rather be a Door-keeper in the House of my GOD, than dwell in the Tents of the Wicked.* Read that Psalm, dear Mother, wherewith we may comfort

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one another. As for me, I am more and more spent, and draw near my last Hour.

24. Then she quoted *Job's Words*, *I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter End upon the Earth; and though after my Skin, Worms destroy this Body, yet in my Flesh shall I see GOD.*

25. Then she said. "*Marvel not at this, for the Hour is coming in which all that are in their Graves shall hear his Voice, and come forth; those that have done good, unto the Resurrection of Life. See, Father, I shall rise in that Day, And then I shall behold my Redeemer; then shall he say, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you before the Beginning of the World. Behold now I live, yet not I, but CHRIST liveth in me; and the Life that I now live in the Flesh, is by the Faith of the Son of GOD, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I am saved, and that not of my self, it is the Gift of GOD, not of Works, that no Man should boast.*

26. My dear Parents, now we must part, my Speech faileth: Pray to the LORD for a quiet Close to my Combat. Her Parents replied, "Ah, dear Child! How sad is that to us, that we must part? She answered, I go to Heaven, and there we shall find one another again; I go to JESUS CHRIST."

27. Then she comforted herself to think of her precious Brother and Sister. "I go to my Brother *Jacob*, who did so much cry and call upon GOD to the last Moment of his Breath: and to my little Sister, who was but three Years old when she died: who when we asked her, whether she would die? answered, Yes, if it be the LORD's Will. I will go to my little Brother, if it be the LORD's Will, or I will stay with my Mother, if it be the LORD's Will. But I know that I shall die, and go to Heaven."

28. After this, her Spirit was refreshed with the Sense of the Pardon of her Sins, which made her to cry out, "Behold, GOD hath washed away my Sins, O how do I long to die!" The LORD is my Shepherd; although I pass through the Valley of that Shadow of Death, I will not fear, for Thou art with me, thy Rod

20 21 Taken for Christ
and thy Staff, comfort me: Shall I not suffer, seeing my glorious Redeemer was pleased to suffer so much for me? O how was he mocked and crowned with Thorns, that he might purchase a Crown of Righteousness for us! "Must I not exalt and bless him while I have a Being, who hath bought me, even me with his Blood? Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the Sins of the World! That Lamb is JESUS CHRIST, who hath satisfied for my Sins."

29. My End is now very near, now I shall put on white Raiment, and be clothed before the Lamb, that spotless Lamb, and with his spotless Righteousness. Now are the Angels making ready to carry my Soul before the Throne of God: These are they who are come out of great Tribulation, who have washed their Robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb. She spoke this with a dying Voice, but full of Spirit, and of the Power of Faith.

30. Her lively Assurance she further uttered in the Words of the Apostle, *We know that if this earthly House of our Tabernacle be dissolved, we have one which is built of God, which is eternal in the Heavens; for in this we sigh for our House, which is in Heaven, that we may be clothed therewith.*

31. There, Father, you see that my Body is this Tabernacle, which now shall be broken down; my Soul shall now part from it, and shall be taken up into Paradise, into that heavenly Jerusalem. There shall I dwell and go no more out, but sit and sing, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD GOD of Hosts, the LORD of Sabaoth! Her last Words were these. 'O LORD GOD, into thy Hands I commit my Spirit: O LORD, be gracious, be merciful to me a poor Sinner.'—

32. She died the first of September, 1664, betwixt seven and eight in the Evening; in the fourteenth Year of her Age.





E X A M P L E ix.

1. **J**ACOB BICKS, the Brother of *Susanna Bicks*, was born in *Leyden*, in the Year 1657. He was visited with Sickness, upon the sixth of *August*, 1664, three or four Weeks before his Sister. In his Distemper he was very sleepy till near his Death; but when he did awake, he was wont still to fall a praying.

2. Once, when his Parents had prayed with him, they asked him, If they should once more send for the Physician? No, said he, I will have the Doctor no more; the LORD will help me: I know he will take me to himself.

3. When his Parents had prayed with him, he said, "Come now, dear Father and Mother, and kiss me, I know that I shall die." Farewel, dear Father and Mother; farewel, dear Sister; farewel, all. Now shall I go unto GOD and JESUS CHRIST, and the holy Angels. Father, know you not what is said by *Jeremiah*? *Blessed is he who trusteth in the LORD.* Now I trust in him, and he will bless me. And in 1 *John* 2. it is said, *Little Children love not the World, for the World passeth away.*"

4. "Away then all that is in the World; away with all my pleasant Things in the World; away with my Dagger, for, where I go, there is nothing to do with Daggers and Swords: Men shall not fight there, but praise GOD. Away with all my Books, there shall I learn true Wisdom, without Books."

5. His Father said, "my dear Child, the LORD will be near thee, and uphold thee."

6. "Yea, Father, (said he) the Apostle *Peter* saith, *GOD resisteth the Proud, but he giveth Grace to the Humble.* I humble myself under the mighty Hand of GOD, and he shall help me and lift me up."

7. "O my dear Child, said his Father, hast thou so strong a Faith?"

8. "Yes, said he, GOD hath given me so strong a Faith in himself, through JESUS CHRIST, that the Devil shall flee from me; for it is said, *He who believeth in the Son hath everlasting Life, and he hath overcome the Wicked One.* Now I believe in JESUS CHRIST, my Redeemer, and he will not leave nor forsake me, but shall give unto me eternal Life, and then shall I sing, *Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Sabaoth.*"

9. Then with that Word, "LORD be merciful to me a poor Sinner," he quietly breathed out his Soul, being about seven Years old.



E X A M P L E x.

1. **J**OHNN HARVY was born in *London* in the Year 1654; his Father was a *Dutch Merchant*; he was piously educated under his Mother, and soon began to hear Divine Things with Delight.

2. The first Thing observable in him, was, that when he was two Years and eight Months old, he could speak as well as other Children do usually at five Years old.

3. His Parents judging, that he was then too young to send to School, let him have his Liberty to play about their Yard. But instead of Playing, he found out a School of his own Accord near Home, and went to the School-Mistress, and intreated her to teach him to read, and so he went for some Time to School without the Knowledge of his Parents, and made a very strange Progress in his Learning, and was able to read distinctly before most Children know their Letters.

4. He was wont to ask many serious and weighty Questions about Matters Which concerned his Soul and Eternity.

5. His Mother being greatly troubled upon the Death of one of his Uncles, this Child came to his Mother; and said, "Mother, though my Uncle be dead,
Doth

Doth not the Scripture say he must rise again? Yes, and I must die, and so must every Body, and it will not be long before CHRIST will come to judge the World, and then we shall see one another again; I pray Mother, do not weep so much." He was not then quite five Years old; by which her Sorrow for her Brother was turned into Admiration, and she was made to sit silent and quiet under that trying Providence.

6. After this his Parents removed to *Aberdeen*, and settled their Child under a School-Master there, whose Custom was upon the LORD's Day in the Morning, to examine his Scholars, concerning the Sermons they had heard the former LORD's Day, and to add some other Questions, which might try the Understanding and Knowledge of his Scholars. The Question that was once proposed to his Form was, Whether God had a Mother? None of the Scholars could answer it, 'till it came to *John Hurry*, who being asked, Whether God had a Mother? answered, No; as he was God, he could not have a Mother; but as he was Man he had. This was before he was six Years old.

7. One Day, seeing one of his near Relations come into his Father's House distempered with Drink, he went to him, and wept over him, and besought him that he would not so offend God, and hazard his Soul.

8. He was a conscientious Observer of the LORD's Day, spending all the Time either in secret Prayer, reading the Scriptures and good Books; learning his Catechism or hearing of the Word of God. And he was not only careful in the Performance of these Duties himself, but was ready to put all that he knew upon a strict Observation of the LORD's Day.

9. He was very humble and modest, and hated any Thing more than Necessaries either in Cloaths or Diet.

10. When he perceived either his Brother or Sister pleased with their new Cloaths, he would reprove their Folly, and when his Reproof signified little, he would bewail their Vanity.

11. Once he had a new Suit brought from the Taylor's, which, when he looked on, he found some Ribbons

bons at the Knees, at which he was grieved; asking his Mother, "Whether those Things would keep him warm?" No, Child, said his Mother. Why then, said he, do you suffer them to be put here? You are mistaken if you think such Things please me: And, I doubt, some that are better than us, may want the Money that this cost you, to buy them Bread."

12. At leisure Times he was talking to his School-fellows about the Things of God, and the Necessity of a holy Life: That Text he much spoke on to them, *The Axe is laid to the Root of the Tree, and every Tree that bringeth not forth good Fruit, is hewn down and cast into the Fire.*

13. After this, his Parents removed not far from London, where he continued 'till the Year sixty-five. He was then sent to the Latin School, where he soon made a very considerable Progress, and was greatly beloved of his Master. The School was his beloved Place, and Learning his Recreation.

14. He had a Word to say to every one that he conversed with, to put them in mind of the Worth of CHRIST, and their Souls; and their Nearness to Eternity; insomuch that good People took no small Pleasure in his Company.

15. He bewailed the miserable Condition of the Generality of Mankind, (when he was about ten Years old) that they were utterly estranged from God. "Though they called Him Father, he said, yet they were his Children only by Creation, and not by any Likeness they had to God, or an Interest in Him."

16. Thus he continued walking in the Ways of God, in Reading, Praying, Hearing the Word of God, and spiritual Discourse; discovering thereby his serious Thoughts of Eternity: which seemed to swallow up all other Thoughts; and he lived in a constant Preparation for it, and looked more like one that was ripe for Glory than an Inhabitant of this lower World.

17. When he was about eleven Years and three Quarters old, his Mother's House was visited with the Plague: His eldest Sister was the first that was visited with

with this Distemper, and when they were praying for her he would sob and weep bitterly.

18. As soon as he perceived his Sister was dead, he said, "*The Will of the LORD be done: Blessed be the LORD.* Dear Mother, you must do as *David* did; after the Child was dead he went and refreshed himself, and quietly submitted to the Will of GOD."

19. The rest of the Family held well for some Days, which Time he spent in preparing for Death. Mean Time he wrote several Meditations upon several Subjects, particularly, upon the Excellency of CHRIST. He was never well but when he was more immediately engaged in the Service of GOD.

20. At fourteen Days end, he was taken sick, at which he seemed very chearful; though his Pain was great.

21. His Mother, looking upon his Brother, shook her Head: At which he asked if his Brother were marked? She answered, "Yea, Child." He asked again, Whether he were marked? She answered nothing. Well, says he, I know I shall be marked: I pray let me have Mr. *Baxter's* Book, that I may read a little more of Eternity before I go into it." His Mother told him, he was not able to read. He said, Then pray by me, and for me.

22. His Mother asked him, Whether he were willing to die, and leave her? He answered, "Yes I am willing to leave you, and go to my heavenly Father." She answered, "Child, if thou hadst but an Assurance of GOD's Love, I should not be so much troubled." He answered, I am assured, that my Sins are forgiven, and that I shall go to Heaven; for, said he, here stood an Angel by me, that told me, I should quickly be in Glory."

23. At this his Mother burst forth into Tears. "O Mother, said he, did you but know what Joy I feel, you would not weep but rejoice. I tell you I am so full of Comfort, that I can't tell you how I am: O, Mother, I shall presently have my Head in my Father's Bosom, and shall be there where the *four and twenty Elders* cast down their Crowns, and sing *Hallelujah, Glory,*

ry, and Praise, to Him that sits upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever!"

24. Upon this his Speech began to fail him, but his Soul was still taken up with Glory, and nothing now grieved him but the Sorrow that he saw his Mother to be in for his Death: A little to divert her, he asked, "What she had to Supper?" But presently, in a Kind of Rapture he cried out, "O what a sweet Supper have I making ready for me in Glory!"

25. But seeing all this did rather increase his Mother's Grief, he asked her, "What she meant thus to offend God? Know you not that it is the Hand of the Almighty? *Humble yourself under the mighty Hand of God*; lay yourself in the Dust, and kiss the Rod in Token of your Submission to the Will of God." Upon which, raising himself a little, He gave a lowly Bow, and spoke no more; but went to Rest in the Bosom of Jesus.

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